

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to recite the information regarding the parent application, priority benefits of which are claimed under 35 U.S.C. § 120 and to correct typographical errors in the application as originally filed. According to the amino acid sequence of the wild-type penicillin expandase listed as SEQ ID NO: 1 in the specification as filed, the 79th amino acid of the wild-type expandase is glycine (G) instead of serine (S).

Applicants have cancelled claims 1-14, without prejudice to Applicants' right to pursue the subject matter of the cancelled claims in related applications. New claims 15-33 have been added to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter Applicants regard as the invention. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 15-33 will be pending in the present application.

New claims 15-33 correspond to allowed claims 1-3 and 15-17 in prior parent U.S. application No. 10/105,319. Specifically, new claim 15 recites a mutated penicillin expandase, derived from a wild-type expandase of a *Streptomyces* species, wherein the mutated penicillin expandase has a substitution at one or more amino acid residues corresponding to methionine 73, glycine 79, valine 275, leucine 277, or cysteine 281 of SEQ ID NO: 1. More specifically, new claim 23 recites the mutated penicillin of claim 15 further having a substitution at one or more amino acid residues corresponding to glycine 300, asparagine 304, or isoleucine 305 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

Applicants submit that none of the references cited in the accompanying List of References Cited By Applicants, in particular, reference C07, Lee H.J. et al., Biochemical and Biophysical Research Communications, 292: 66-70 (2002), teach or suggest penicillin expandase mutated at one or more positions at 73, 79, 275, 277 and/or 281 (new claims 15-22), much less teach or suggest penicillin expandase mutated at one or more positions at 73, 79, 275, 277 and/or 281, plus mutated at one or more positions at 300, 304 and/or 305 (new claims 23-33).

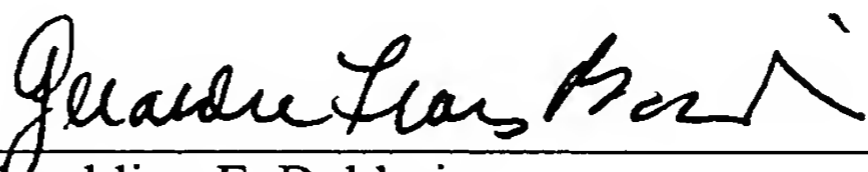
The above-made amendments are fully supported by the original application, especially the sequence listing as filed. No new matter has been introduced.

Entry of the amendments into the file is respectfully requested. It is also respectfully requested that all the listed references be reviewed and made of record in the present application.

It is estimated that no fee is required for filing this Preliminary Amendment. In the event a fee is required, please charge the required fee to Deposit Account No. 16-1150.

Respectfully submitted,

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